

This legislation helps bridge the insurance gap between those that can afford a flood policy and those that cannot. The bill would provide discounted flood insurance over a five-year term for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area (flood plain) by a redraw of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). If their property is worth no more than \$75,000, they would be eligible to receive a 50% discount on their flood insurance premiums for a five-year period.

It also provides for limited retroactivity if their residence is placed within the floodplain within two years of the enactment of the legislation; otherwise, the five years would begin upon the placement of the property within the flood plain. I hope that this legislation will not only increase participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but make its program more affordable for the economically disadvantaged. It provides an incentive for those who are most vulnerable to huge losses in floods to get the protection they need at a price they can afford.

The NFIP plays a crucial role in lessening the impact of a major flooding disaster, but to make the program operate most effectively we need greater participation. I believe my legislation will extend the helping hand associated with flood insurance down to those people in greatest need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can speed this bill through the 107th Congress.

AMERICAN SCHOLARS OF CHINESE ANCESTRY

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Res. 160, which calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry being held in detention. I join in asking President Bush to make the release of these scholars, who include U.S. citizens and permanent residents, a top priority in our dealings with China.

These Chinese American scholars have been accused of spying but no evidence has been produced by the Chinese government. The detainees have even been denied the basic right of meeting with their families and lawyers. Dr. Li Shaomin, Dr. Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Tan Guangguang, and Teng Chunyan have been unjustly imprisoned and denied due process. We must insist on their immediate release.

The harassment and persecution of intellectuals is yet another attempt by the Chinese government to stifle any freedom of expression among its people. China's leaders should be ashamed of its government's abysmal record of human rights abuses but instead remain indifferent to the condemnation of the world community. The Chinese government regularly violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it signed in October 1998.

We must make sure that the Chinese government understands that it will pay a price for

flouting international norms of behavior. This is why I support rescinding Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China and going back to an annual review. I would hope, moreover, that China's human rights record will be a factor in the International Olympic Committee's choice of which country will host the 2008 Olympics.

I urge all my colleagues to send a strong message to the Chinese government by unanimously passing this important resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARK JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Mark Johnson, who will be recognized by the New Jersey Medical School's Family Practice Residency Program for his outstanding achievements in the fields of family medicine and medical research. Dr. Johnson will be honored on Friday, June 29, 2001, at a private reception at the Landmark II in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mark Johnson graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he majored in Black Literature. He furthered his studies by graduating from the University of Medicine and Dentistry at New Jersey's Medical School in Newark, New Jersey. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Johnson spent his family practice residency at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his Masters Degree in Public Health.

Dr. Johnson's notable career as a family physician and medical researcher has earned him widespread praise from his peers and colleagues. The American Medical Association has recognized him on four separate occasions for his diligent work and exceptional endeavors, by presenting him with the Physician's Recognition Award. New York Magazine designated him one of the best doctors in the State of New York in 1999 and 2000.

Currently, Dr. Johnson is the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry at New Jersey's Medical School in Newark. Prior to his tenure at New Jersey's Medical School, Dr. Johnson taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of South Alabama, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Mark Johnson for his distinguished service and commitment to family medicine.

GINA UPCHURCH RECEIVES COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER AWARD

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to Gina

Upchurch, one of 10 recipients of the 2001 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award. Ms. Upchurch has earned this honor for her pathbreaking work with the Senior PHARMAssist Program based in Durham, North Carolina.

Each year, the Community Health Leadership Program recognizes ten individual who have found innovative ways to bring health care to communities whose needs have been ignored or unmet. Ms. Upchurch was selected for this prestigious recognition from a field of 577 nominees.

As founder and executive director of Senior PHARMAssist, Ms. Upchurch created a model to help seniors on limited incomes purchase expensive medications. PHARMAssist monitors the medications of their clients to help prevent life-threatening interactions and provides financial aid to those on limited incomes. The program has helped more than 2,600 seniors get the medications they need and has educated over 800 older adults about safer usage of medication.

The counseling and support provided by PHARMAssist works. A recent study conducted by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill found that emergency room visits and over-night hospital stays had decreased by almost a third for seniors who had been in the program for at least one year.

Ms. Upchurch graduated from UNC with degrees in pharmacy and public health. She served in the Peace Corps in Botswana before returning to North Carolina to write her master's thesis, a policy analysis which recommended a program to provide health care to seniors throughout the state. This laid the groundwork for what eventually became Senior PHARMAssist. She now oversees a \$500,000 budget and has written a manual to help other communities establish a similar program.

Gina Upchurch has improved health care and helped those in need in our community. I am proud to recognize her achievements today.

DIRECT AIR SERVICE BETWEEN LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AND WASHINGTON'S REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORTS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have been joined by a bipartisan group of my colleagues in introducing legislation to preserve direct air service between Washington's Reagan-National Airport (DCA) and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

This legislation is necessary because the Department of Transportation (DOT) decided to eliminate this critical service last Friday. Instead of permitting American Airlines, which purchased TWA, to have the TWA slots to continue to fly this route, the Department awarded them to Alaska Airlines, which will use them to start nonstop service between Washington and Seattle.

The Department's decision disappointed tens of thousands of Californians and other passengers who have come to rely on this route and its connections to Bakersfield, Fresno, Monterey, Oakland, Palm Springs, San